



A beautiful
entryway appeals
to our sense of
being welcomed
into a home

After purchasing your home, physical security should not be overlooked. This refers to locks, latches, window hardware, etc. By having a locksmith or security specialist come to your home and make an evaluation, you can determine the degree of security that you would like to have.

Because you may not know how many keys are in existence and exactly who has them, (such as previous contractors, neighbors or former owners) you may want to change the locks to operate with new keys. You can also request that all the locks in your home operate with a single key. The locksmith can install locks that are more decorative as well as secure.

Entry Doors

You can sometimes improve both the value and appearance of your home by installing a new entryway. It also plays an important role in the security and energy efficiency of the house.

The location of your front entryway can be an important factor in door selection. If there is no overhang, the door will be exposed to harsh elements. Care and maintenance are important considerations.

Inside the entryway you'll want to consider how much light you need. This will help you choose between a design that features a glass insert or an all-panel door. Remember, a front entryway is a focal point so be sure to select a design that easily flows with the rest of the architecture.

The primary consideration for a front door is solidity and quality. While this is easily achieved with a wooden door, careful finishing and sealing is required for even the most carefully constructed wooden doors. Over the last few years, manufacturers have used "core-block" construction to significantly improve the energy efficiency of many new wood panel doors.

Today, most entry doors installed in new homes are insulated entry doors. These doors are relatively inexpensive and require little maintenance. Their polyurethane foam core gives them better insulation value.

Steel entry doors are a smart choice if you want an energy-efficient entry with a painted finish. The magnetic weatherstripping often associated with these doors is a good way to keep out the elements.

For a more natural wood look, fiberglass doors are a good choice. These doors have a wood-grain texture that can be finished with almost any kind of oil-based stain. This makes it easier to match finishes used elsewhere.

Both steel and fiberglass doors come in flush or traditional panel styles. They can be purchased with

decorative inserts of leaded, beveled, or etched glass.

Garage Doors

The garage door is the largest moving object in your home. It is important to clean and lubricate the rollers and door tracks every three months. Tighten any loose screws, bolts, or nuts. Never try to adjust the steel springs. They are under high tension and should only be serviced by a door professional.

If you have an automatic door opener, be sure to clean and lubricate the drive chain and track every few months. Check frequently that the safety feature is working properly so that the door will reverse direction when it comes into contact with any object.

By making security for your home a priority, you give your family safety and peace of mind.

